



YUKON RIVER NEWS RELEASE



STATE OF ALASKA
Department of Fish and Game
Division of Commercial Fisheries
McKie Campbell, Commissioner
Denby Lloyd, Director

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service
Federal Subsistence Board
Rowan Gould, Regional Director
Tom Boyd, Asst. Regional Dir. Subsistence

Steve Hayes, Summer Season Area Manager

Russ Holder, Yukon Area Inseason Manager

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 23, 2006

The Emmonak Fish and Game office will open for the 2006 season on May 25. Office hours will be Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Saturday from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., and the office will be closed on Sunday.

The 2006 Yukon River king salmon return is expected to be average to below average and similar to 2005. The run is anticipated to provide for escapements, support a normal subsistence harvest, and a below average commercial harvest. If inseason indicators of run strength suggest sufficient abundance exists to have a commercial fishery, the commercial harvest could range from 30,000 to 60,000 king salmon based on current expectations.

The 2006 summer chum salmon return is expected to be average to above average and similar to 2005. The run is anticipated to provide for escapements, support a normal subsistence harvest, and a commercial harvest. If inseason indicators of run strength suggest sufficient abundance exists to have a commercial fishery, the commercial harvest could range from 500,000 to 900,000 summer chum salmon depending on salmon market conditions.

Subsistence salmon fishing in Yukon River Districts 1, 2, and 3 is currently open seven days a week until the regulatory fishing schedule becomes effective. Once the fishing schedule becomes effective, subsistence salmon fishing will consist of two 36-hour periods each week.

District 1: The subsistence salmon fishing schedule will begin on Monday, May 29. Subsistence salmon fishing in District 1 is allowed from 8:00 p.m. Mondays until 8:00 a.m. Wednesdays and from 8:00 p.m. Thursdays until 8:00 a.m. Saturdays. The first subsistence salmon closure for District 1 will be from 8:00 a.m. Wednesday, May 31 to 8 p.m. Thursday, June 1.

District 2: The subsistence salmon fishing schedule will begin on Wednesday, May 31. Subsistence salmon fishing in District 2 is allowed from 8:00 p.m. Wednesdays until 8:00 a.m. Fridays and from 8:00 p.m. Sundays until 8:00 a.m. Tuesdays. The first subsistence salmon closure for District 2 will be from 8:00 a.m. Friday, June 2 to 8 p.m. Sunday, June 4.

District 3: The subsistence salmon fishing schedule will begin on Friday, June 2. Subsistence

salmon fishing in District 3 is allowed from 8:00 a.m. Fridays until 8:00 p.m. Saturdays and from 8:00 a.m. Tuesdays until 8:00 p.m. Wednesdays. The first subsistence salmon closure for District 3 will be from 8:00 p.m. Saturday, June 3 to 8:00 a.m. Tuesday, June 6.

Subsistence salmon fishing for the Coastal District is open 7 days a week, 24 hours a day.

During the subsistence salmon fishing closures, all gillnets with a mesh size greater than four inches must be removed from the water and fish wheels may not be operated.

Subsistence fishermen are required to remove the dorsal fin of king salmon taken for subsistence purposes in Districts 1, 2, and 3.

For recorded fishery announcements and updates call 949-1731, 24 hours a day. If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the Emmonak ADF&G office at 949-1320 or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at 907-455-1849. The Emmonak ADF&G office will stand by on VHF channel 7A.

This has been a report by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Lower Yukon River Regulatory Subsistence Salmon Fishing Schedule

The department will update the following subsistence salmon fishing schedule before Monday, June 5.

District Y-1 subsistence salmon fishing schedule for the week of May 29 through June 4, 2006 is as follows:

Monday May 29	Tuesday May 30	Wednesday May 31	Thursday June 1	Friday June 2	Saturday June 3	Sunday June 4
Schedule Begins at 8 p.m.	Subsistence Salmon Fishing Open	8:00 a.m. Subsistence Salmon Fishing Closes	Subsistence Salmon Fishing Opens at 8 p.m.	Subsistence Salmon Fishing Open	8:00 a.m. Subsistence Salmon Fishing Closes	Subsistence Salmon Fishing Closed

District Y-2 subsistence salmon fishing schedule for the week of May 29 through June 4, 2006 is as follows:

Monday May 29	Tuesday May 30	Wednesday May 31	Thursday June 1	Friday June 2	Saturday June 3	Sunday June 4
Subsistence Salmon Fishing Open	Subsistence Salmon Fishing Open	Schedule Begins at 8 p.m.	Subsistence Salmon Fishing Open	8:00 a.m. Subsistence Salmon Fishing Closes	Subsistence Salmon Fishing Closed	Subsistence Salmon Fishing Opens at 8 p.m.

District Y-3 subsistence fishing salmon schedule for the week of May 29 through June 4, 2006 is as follows:

Monday May 29	Tuesday May 30	Wednesday May 31	Thursday June 1	Friday June 2	Saturday June 3	Sunday June 4
Subsistence Salmon Fishing Open	Subsistence Salmon Fishing Open	Subsistence Salmon Fishing Open	Subsistence Salmon Fishing Open	Schedule Begins at 8 a.m.	8:00 p.m. Subsistence Salmon Fishing Closes	Subsistence Salmon Fishing Closed